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(54) **Powder proof reclosable container.**

(57) A reclosable container which is liquid and gas proof before being opened, and which is arranged, after having been opened, for being reclosed to become steam proof, and which comprises an outer container sleeve (21) of a supporting material, an inner layer on said container sleeve of a liquid or gas tight material, a reclosable lid means (22) comprising a lid frame (26) adapted to be introduced into the open end of the container sleeve (21), and a closing lid (27) arranged to be connected to the lid frame (26) under steam proof conditions, and in which the lid frame (26) is, round the frame opening thereof, formed with a downwardly projecting lid frame neck (28) having an even bottom surface, to which a separate sealing foil (23) is sealingly connected, and which sealing foil has a laterally out from said lid frame neck (28) projecting and all around extending sealing foil part which is fold up to a peripheral sealing rim (33) when the reclosable lid means together with the sealing foil (23) is pressed down into the open end of the container tube (21) and which is welded or otherwise sealingly connected also to the sealing inner surface of the container tube (21).

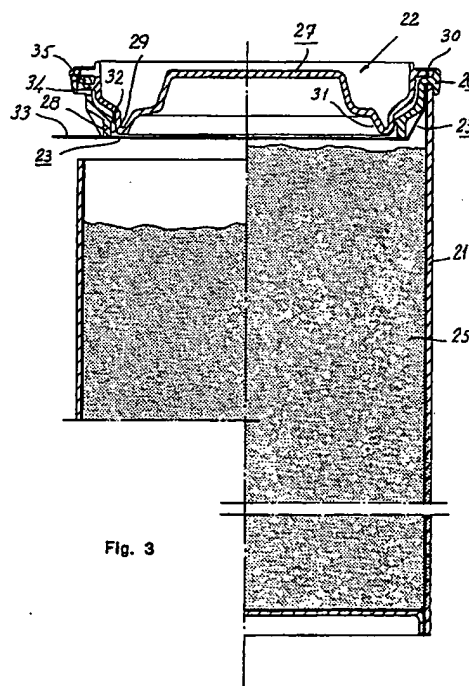


Fig. 3

EP 0 442 433 A1

<Divisional of EP 87 85 0157.6 filed May 13, 1987, claiming priority from SE 8700571-6 of February 12, 1987>

The present invention relates to a reclosable container which is liquid and gas proof before being opened, which is arranged, after having been opened, for being reclosed to become steam proof, and which comprises an outer container sleeve of a supporting material, an inner layer on said container sleeve of a liquid or gas tight material, a reclosable lid means comprising a lid frame adapted to be introduced into the open end of the container sleeve, and a closing lid arranged to be connected to the lid frame under steam proof conditions.

Packages or containers of this general type are known for instance from applicant's French patent 1.486.031 (corresponding to Swedish patent application No 11.532/65), which patent discloses a container in which the inner bag is connected to the inner surface of the cardboard outer container and is formed with an end closure foil, and in which a reclosable lid means is formed with a join-channel in which the evenly cut upper edges of the outer container and the inner bag are introduced and secured.

Applicant's Swedish patent 77 00806-8 discloses a similar type of container in which the inner liquid and gas proof bag is likewise connected to the cardboard outer container adjacent the upper edge thereof, and whereby the container is adapted for being provided with a separate reclosing lid.

Both types of containers are disadvantageous in that the containers get an unsufficient tightness after having been opened, and in that the content of the containers, which may be a liquid, a powder or a grain material etc. may penetrate into the area between the inner bag and the reclosable lid means, in certain containers even between the inner bag and the cardboard outer container.

For a reclosable container it can be requested that the container is liquid and gas proof before the container has been opened, and that the container can be reclosed at least so as to be powder proof, so that no gas-way appears between the outer container, which is generally untight, and the inner bag, and so that the content of the container can not enter any possible spaces between the inner bag and the reclosable lid means and, above all, not between the inner bag and the outer container. This is especially important for goods which may be destroyed depending on the action of the oxygen of the air, for instance food stuffs like coffee, tea and many other products.

Another known type of container comprises a container sleeve made of a blank of cardboard material, which at least on the inner surface is covered with a weldable layer of material, prefer-

ably a high frequency weldable material, and in which the container sleeve at the bottom is closed by means of a cup-formed foil or a cup-formed lid piece having a weldable layer of material facing the interior of the container and facing the walls of the sleeve and which piece is introduced in the container sleeve and is secured to the walls thereof, for instance by high frequency weld connecting the two layers of material facing each other.

The manufacture of such a container can be made in that a sleeve is prepared and is formed with a bottom and is filled with the intended goods, whereupon a lid piece is pressed into said sleeve by means of a press plunge, preferably in that a plain lid blank is pressed through a formation ring provided above the opening of the sleeve, whereby said blank is formed with upwardly extending rims when being pressed down. After the cup-formed lid piece thereby provided has been introduced in the container tube the fold up rims thereof are weld connected to the layer on the inner surface of the sleeve. A container of this type can easily be made both steam proof and gas proof, and it is well suited for packing of all kinds of solid and liquid goods, for instance food stuffs. When the container is opened a part of the lid piece is cut or torn open, and the packed goods can be poured out or can be portioned out.

For such goods which are successively consumed the container is provided with a detachable reclosing lid. A container of the above mentioned type may in some cases, especially in case of relatively thin container sleeves, be considered relatively weak, and the upper edge can be damaged after repeated reclosing of the detachable reclosing lid. In such a case it would be advantageous that the reclosing lid cooperates with an edge frame of some stiff material, and it would likewise be advantageous that the reclosing lid is inseparably connected to the container or to such stiff edge frame.

In such a container the cup-formed lid piece or closing foil provided in the interior of the container present in the previously known type of container is substituted by a lid of the type known per se which comprises a lid frame and a separate lid or a reclosing lid which is hinge connected to said lid frame, and in which the edge frame is connected to the inner surface of the container sleeve.

The object of the invention therefore has been to solve the problem of providing a container which is liquid and gas proof before being opened, and which, after having been opened, can be reclosed by means of a reclosable lid means which is separate or hinge connected to the container, so that the container becomes powder proof or preferably even relatively gas proof, what can in this connection be called "steam proof", and which is of the

type mentioned above.

For this purpose it is requested firstly that the inner sealing layer of the outer container is liquid and gas proof; secondly that the reclosable lid means has a reasonably good sealing property; and thirdly that the reclosable lid means seals against the inner layer of the container.

According to the invention the lid frame is, round the frame opening thereof, formed with a downwardly projecting lid frame neck having an even bottom surface, and a separate sealing foil is sealingly connected to the even bottom surface of the lid frame neck, which sealing foil has a laterally outside the said lid frame neck projecting and all around extending sealing foil part, which is fold up to a peripheral sealing rim when the reclosable lid means together with the sealing foil is pressed down into the open end of the container tube and which is welded or otherwise sealingly connected also to the sealing inner surface of the container tube.

The sealing thereby can be made in that the closing foil is attached to the plain bottom surface of the edge frame, whereby said foil is larger than the opening of the container sleeve and extends freely such a distance transversally out of the edge frame that the foil, when introducing the reclosing lid with the foil in the open end of the container sleeve, or when pressing same through a formation ring provided close to the container sleeve, is formed with fold up edges or rims which are pressed into contact with the weldable inner layer of the container sleeve, whereupon the fold up edges or rims of the foil are sealingly connected to the inner surface of the tube. A manufacturing-technical advantage with the invention is that it is possible to utilize the very reclosable lid means with the belonging reclosing lid as a press plunge, and that the edge frame with the closing foil connected thereto can be manufactured ready made and can be supplied for direct introduction in the container sleeve.

The connection can be made by means of glue, but preferably it is made by welding, for instance high frequency welding.

For opening of the container the reclosing lid is fold up, and the closing foil is cut or torn open, for instance by means of any known type of tear-open means, whereby the edge frame still remains connected to the inner surface of the container tube. Modern reclosing lids having edge frames, for instance of a plastic material, can be formed so tight that they, upon reclosing, become not only powder tight but even steam tight, whereby the container as a whole becomes steam proof.

Further characteristics of the invention will be evident from the following detailed description in which reference will be made to the accompanying

drawings illustrating some embodiments of the invention.

In the drawings figure 1 is a perspective view of the upper part of a container according to the invention with the lid fold up to open position and before the reclosable lid means has been introduced in the container sleeve. Figure 2 is a side view in a smaller scale of the same container, and figure 3 shows a cross section view of the same container according to the invention, in the left half shown before and in the right half after the reclosable lid means with the closing foil has been introduced in the container sleeve.

The container illustrated in figures 1-3 comprises a container sleeve 21 and a reclosable lid means 22 including a closing foil 23.

The container sleeve can be made of any stiff material like metal plate, or of any relatively stiff material like plastic, cardboard or a similar material, and it is made from a plain blank which is formed to a tube having a rectangular cross section and rounded corners by being joined over an overlap joint or preferably a butt joint 24, for instance under cooperation with an inner (not shown) joining strip. The material of the container tube is, at least on the side thereof to become the inner side of the container, covered with a weldable material like a weldable resin material, which is steam tight and gas tight. In case the different parts of the container are to be joined by means of high frequency welding the material preferably is a triple laminate material, e.g. cardboard, an electromagnetically conducting intermediate layer like aluminum and an inner layer of a weldable plastic material.

The container is sealingly closed in the bottom, for instance by means of an inner cup-shaped bottom plate, see figure 3, which with a downwardly fold flange or rim is weld-connected to the inner layer of the sleeve. The illustrated container is filled with some material 25 to a level suited for introducing the reclosable lid means 22.

The reclosable lid means comprises an edge frame 26 and a lid 27 which is hinge connected thereto. The edge frame 26 has a downwardly projecting neck 28 which, to form and size, substantially coincides with the inner of the sleeve 30, and which may be slightly conical. The neck 28 has an even bottom with a bottom surface which is suited for weld-connecting or glue-connecting a sealing foil 23 of a suitable weldable material. When the sealing foil is torn or cut open the neck 28 provides an opening 29 towards the packed goods 25. The lid 27 is, over a hinge 30, rotatably connected to the edge frame 26, and also the lid has a neck 31 which is matching the neck 28 of the edge frame, so that it is possible to reclose the lid 27 in the edge frame 26 under powder proof or preferably steam proof conditions. As most clearly

shown in figure 3 the edge frame is, at the upper part of the neck 28, formed with an all around extending sealing lip 32 adapted to resiliently and sealingly engage the outside of the lid neck 31 in an inwards-downwards curved form. A gas pressure from inside the container tends to press the sealing lip 32 still stronger and still tighter to the lid neck 31. The reclosing lid can be formed with a snap lock as shown in the left part of figure 3, and which comprises a projecting hook 34 which snap-engages underneath a shoulder 35 of the edge frame when the lid part 27 is pressed down in the edge frame 26, and which prevents the lid from unintentionally becoming opened. The lid is opened in that the shoulder 35, which is slotted, is lightly pulled outwards.

As previously mentioned the sealing foil 23 is sealingly connected to the bottom surface of the edge frame neck 28 and it projects laterally out therefrom a suitable distance for providing a sealing rim 33 for engagement with the inner surface of the sleeve. When the reclosable lid means 22 with the sealing foil 23 is pressed down through the open end of the sleeve, during which operation the laterally projecting part 33 of the sealing foil is fold up and is pressed into engagement with the inner layer of the sleeve. The edge flange or rim 33 of the sealing foil is adapted to be sealingly connected to the inner layer of the sleeve over a glue joint or a weld joint. A preferred method of securing the sealing foil 23 to the inner layer of the container sleeve is by means of high frequency (HF) welding (or ultrasonic welding), and to this end the sealing foil can be a laminate of a HF receiving aluminum layer facing the edge frame and a weldable plastic layer facing the inner sleeve layer. The foil alternatively can be a triple laminate of plastic-aluminum-plastic, so that the sealing foil can be welded to the edge frame neck 28 and concurrently therewith to the inner surface of the tube. The sealing foil may, as conventional, be formed with a tear-open means for convenient exposing of the packed goods 25, or the sealing foil may otherwise be cut open by means of a knife. In both cases a sealed joint is obtained between the edge frame neck and the inner surface of the tube 21. Supposing that the lid seals well to the edge frame, the container can be reclosed under powder proof and liquid proof and even steam proof conditions.

The introduction of the reclosable lid means 22 with the sealing foil 23 into the open end of the sleeve can be made by means a simple press means whereby the upper part of the tube 21 can be supported in an outer frame. The introduction also can be made by means of a press plunge which is introduced in the opening 29 of the edge frame and which can eventually be formed with a radially expandable means for pressing the neck

with the fold-up sealing rim laterally outwards into contact with the inner surface of the tube during the very welding operation.

Reference numerals

21	container sleeve
22	reclosable lid means
23	closing foil
2	4 butt joint
25	filling material
26	edge frame
27	lid
28	neck (26)
29	opening (26)
30	hinge
31	neck (27)
32	sealing lip
33	sealing rim (23)
34	hook (27)
35	shoulder (26)

Claims

1. A reclosable container which is liquid and gas proof before being opened, and which is arranged, after having been opened, for being reclosed under steam proof conditions, and which comprises an outer container sleeve (21) of a supporting material, an inner layer of said container sleeve of a liquid or gas tight material, a reclosable lid means (22) comprising a lid frame (26) adapted to be introduced into the open end of the container sleeve (21), and a closing lid (27) arranged to be connected to the lid frame (26) under steam proof conditions, **characterized**
 - in that the lid frame (26) is, round the frame opening thereof, formed with a downwards projecting lid frame neck (28) having an even bottom surface,
 - in that a separate sealing foil (23) is sealingly connected to said even bottom surface of the lid frame neck (28), and which sealing foil has a laterally out from the said lid frame neck (28) projecting and all around extending sealing foil part,
 - which is fold up to a peripheral sealing rim (33) when the reclosable lid means together with the sealing foil (23) is pressed down into the open end of the container tube (21) and which is welded or otherwise sealingly connected also to the sealing inner surface layer of the container tube (21).
2. Container according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the sealing foil (23) is being sealingly

connected to the inner surface layer of the sleeve (21) at the same time as the lid frame (26) is sealingly connected to the inner surface of the fold-up sealing foil rim (33).

3. Container according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the sealing foil (23) is permanently secured to the bottom surface of the lid frame (26), and in that the reclosable lid means (22) and the sealing foil (23) are pre-manufactured providing an integral, separate unit adapted to be introduced in a bottom-closed and filled container sleeve (21).

4. Container according to any of claims 1-3, **characterized** in that the lid frame (26) and the closing lid (27) are formed with cooperating means for making it possible to reclose the lid means over the gas tight inner layer of the container sleeve (21) under steam proof conditions.

5. Container according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the lid frame is formed with an inwardly facing sealing lip (32) adapted to resiliently and sealingly engage a downwardly projecting neck (31) of the lid (27) when the lid is closed.

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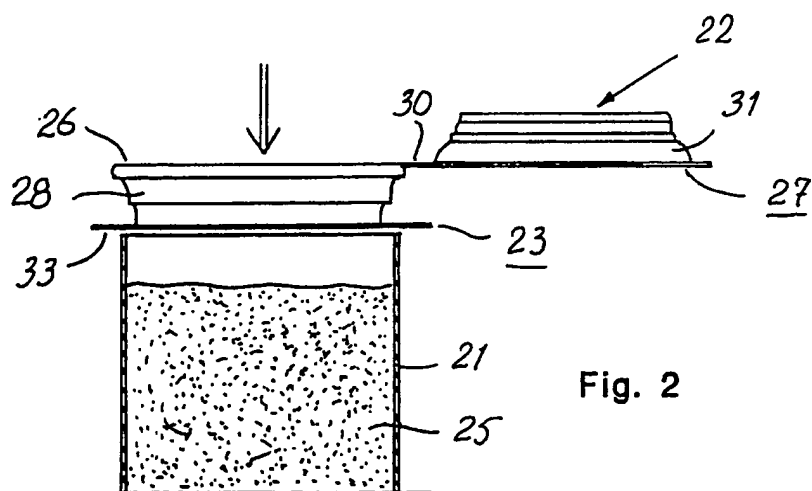
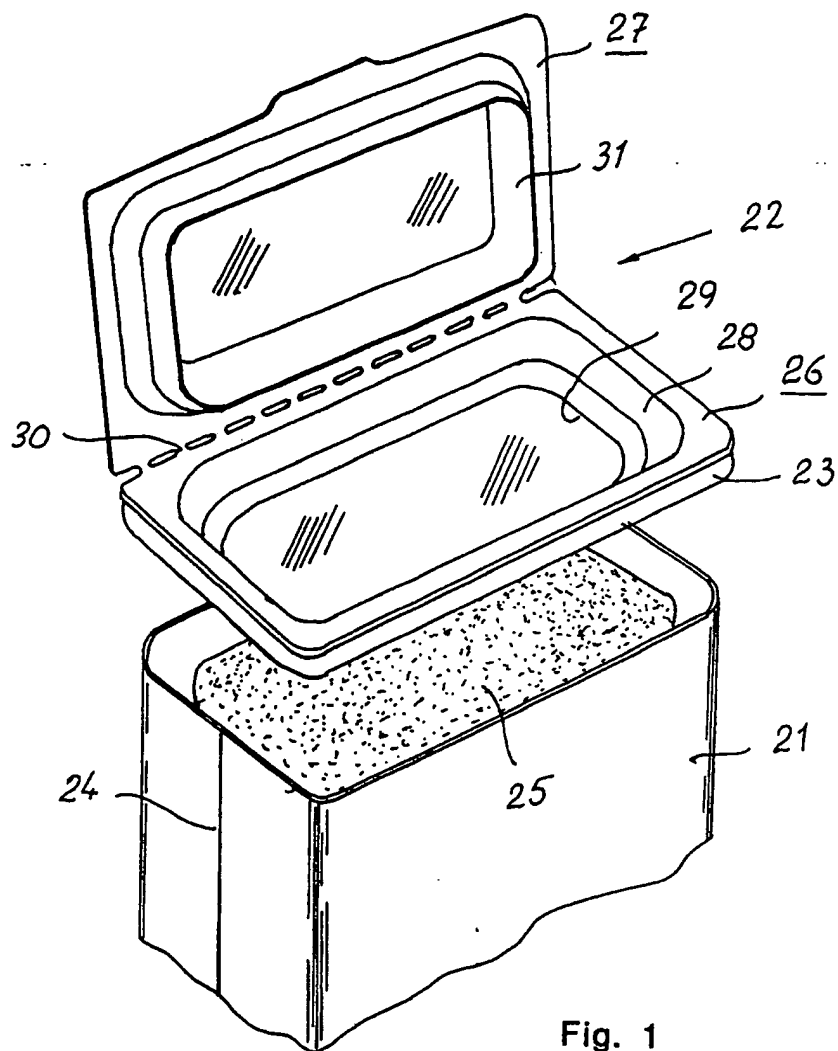
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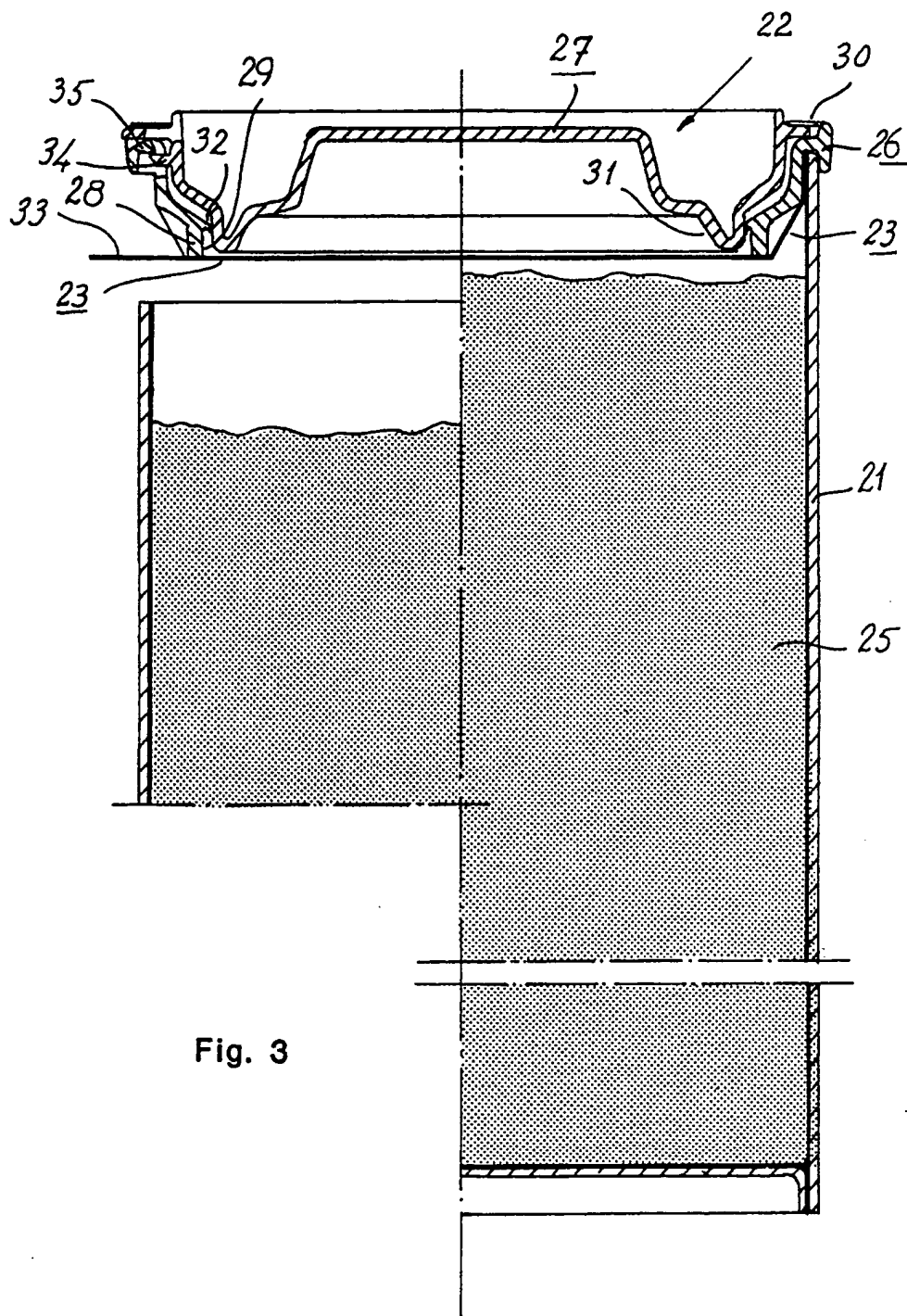


Fig. 3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 10 1916

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	FR-A-2 490 191 (CHOCOLAT POULAIN) * Page 1, lines 1-7, figures 2,3 * -----	1	B 65 D 51/20 B 65 D 43/16
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B 65 D B 65 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 21 March 91	Examiner MARTIN A.G.M.
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